

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**

In Re:

**COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEYS
FOR CIVIL, FAMILY LAW AND PROBATE
PROCEEDINGS**

**STANDING ORDER
2022-04**

WHEREAS, the rates paid in Mendocino County are no longer competitive with the rates paid in adjoining counties, creating a scarcity of qualified attorneys to take appointments in these cases;

WHEREAS, the compensation rates for attorneys appointed in civil, family law and probate proceedings has not been increased in more than ten years;

NOW THEREFORE, the Court orders the following new rates and billing processes and requirements to become effective January 1, 2022.

Standard Billing Process for Attorneys

The court will allow attorney's fees and costs for services rendered and expenditures made by counsel properly appointed while such matters are pending before the court. Such appointment orders must be made before an attorney may begin billing for services and other costs pertaining to the appointment.

Application for the payment of such fees and costs will ordinarily be made at the time of disposition of the proceeding in which court appointed counsel served, but in no event will such application be presented more than 60 days thereafter. The court reserves the right to reject any invoice presented for payment more than 60 days after the disposition of the case.

If an attorney believes that the case is of such a special or unusual nature that it is not possible to render services in accordance with the maximum fee schedule, he/she must file a declaration explaining why an exception to the maximum fee is sought. Upon review of such written declaration, a reasonable fee in excess of the limits set forth in this schedule may be established by the judge presiding in the case.

Except as set forth in paragraph below, attorneys will not receive extra compensation for normal operating expenses such as mileage, photocopies, and long-distance phone calls.

In the event that an appointed attorney must appear in the court of another county on a case transferred from this court, the attorney will be entitled to reasonable travel and lodging expenses necessarily incurred in connection with his/her appearance in the court of the other county. The attorney will be reimbursed for necessary mileage and lodging at the rate allowed by the Judicial Council of California. In no event will the attorney seek payment of fees for travel time.

Application for fees and costs must be completed on Claim Form (MMC-131) itemizing the legal services rendered, the amount of time for such services, and any expenses incurred. Application for fees and costs must be submitted to the court for subsequent approval by the judge presiding in the case.

Any requests for reimbursement of travel or lodging must be made by written declaration. All requests for such reimbursement must include itemized expenses with all applicable receipts attached. Travel expenses must be pre-approved by the judge presiding in the case.

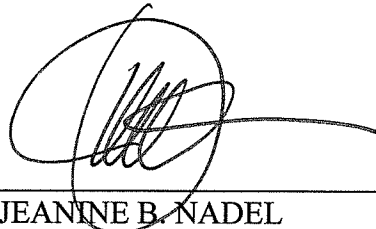
Civil, Family Law, and Probate Attorney Appointments: Costs pertaining to appointment of attorneys in civil, family law (typically minor's counsel pursuant to Family Code § 3150), and probate matters are submitted to the court for payment.

An attorney may be eligible for appointment in one of these case types by providing written proof of experience required by California Rules of Court rule 5.242 and upon authorization by the judge presiding in the case. The fee for such appointments will be a minimum of \$75.00 per hour. The court can authorize a higher hourly rate if funding is available.

Guardianship and Conservatorship Proceedings. Attorneys for guardians or conservators are compensated according to the work actually performed. The size of the estate corpus and the responsibility assumed by the attorney are only two of the factors considered in arriving at the value of the services. Application for the attorney's fees must be accompanied by a complete statement of the facts upon which the application is based, a detailed statement of the amount of time devoted to each component of the services, and the specific amount requested for each service.

This standing order shall expire on December 31, 2022.

Dated: 1-4-2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JEANINE B. NADEL', is written over a horizontal line.

JEANINE B. NADEL
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court